

My name is Gilson Nazario and I'm from Watertown, CT. As you may know, 6th grader Olivia Gardner from California was continually harassed even after changing schools. She attended three different schools and the cyber bullying followed her to each one. It is reasonable to conclude that sexting is another dimension of cyberbullying. The main issue with cyber bullying is that it cannot be stopped simply by transferring to a new school, or moving. Since the bullying is taking place electronically, the problem can follow you wherever you go. According to the American Journal of Psychiatry, Cyber bullying is not like traditional bullying because the aggressor doesn't need to be more powerful than the person they are bullying because they don't have to confront them face to face (Fauman, 2008). The research states that a single post on the internet can be repeatedly damaging to the victim because of how many people can view that one post (2008). The aggressor in these situations doesn't get the immediate feedback from the victim "that can moderate their behavior" (Fauman, 2008). According to the journal Reclaiming Children and Youth, cyber bullying is about power and control (Keith & Martin, 2005). According to the Journal of Psychiatry & Law, the wide spread use of the internet can create "mob behavior" which can cause someone to be harassed by a person they don't even know or met face to face (Drogin, Young, 2008). According to the Journal of Adolescent Health, of the students being bullied online, more than one third also reported being bullied at school (2007). There is no statistical evidence that cyber victimization is focused more on a certain sex, but rather affects everyone equally (Drogin, Young, 2008). The psychiatry Bible, the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-IV) by the American Psychiatric Association, "identifies several diagnoses of particular relevance to an understanding of the psychiatric causes and

consequences of cyber bullying (2008). There is a link between classroom bullying and Attention Deficit Disorder and personality disorders, among other mental disorders (Drogin, Young, 2008). There is an increased suicide rate among adults who were victims of childhood bullying; this is actually more prevalent in women (Drogin, Young, 2008). However, after being continually encouraged to do so by one of his peers, 13 year old Ryan Halligan took his own life. The combination of cyber bullying and adolescent sexuality is a dangerous and volatile one.

[When dealing with sexting, adolescent sexual motives play a role, and this is where we see gender differences. According to the Handbook of Adolescent Psychology, there are four main factors as to why people have sex:

- Physical: stress reduction, pleasure, physical desirability
- Goal attainment: resources, social status (bragging rights), revenge
- Emotional: the experience and expression of love and commitment
- Insecurity: low self-esteem, pressure, mate guarding.

Research results revealed that men listed more reasons for having sex that were more physical, whereas women were more likely to include emotional reasons.]

It may be beneficial to consider these factors when developing a response to the crime of sexting as it pertains to adolescents and the development of rehabilitative or educational outreach.

References

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